

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 885

By DeBerry

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the University of  
Memphis football team.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are honored to recognize those athletic programs that bring honor and acclaim to their universities and to this State; and

WHEREAS, the University of Memphis football team is one such estimable program that has enjoyed an extraordinary level of success over the past four seasons, reaching four consecutive bowl games for the first time in program history; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis Tigers captured a share of the 2014 American Athletic Conference (AAC) title in their second year in the league and won the West Division of the AAC for the first time in program history in 2017, sending them to their first appearance in the AAC Championship game and then the hometown AutoZone Liberty Bowl; and

WHEREAS, in four years, the Tigers have won thirty-one post season honors, ranging from All-Conference to AAC Player of the Year to All-American recognitions; three Tigers have been named Player of the Year on their side of the ball: Tank Jakes, 2014 Defensive Player of the Year; Jake Elliott, 2015 Special Teams Player of the Year; and Tony Pollard, 2016 and 2017 Special Teams Player of the Year; and

WHEREAS, a number of Tigers have also garnered national accolades, including Anthony Miller, who became the first position player in school history to earn consensus NCAA All-American honors, and Tony Pollard, who became the first Tiger to receive Walter Camp All-American first team honors, finishing 2017 as the NCAA statistics leader in kick return yards with 40.0 yards per return; and

WHEREAS, adding to the Tigers' stellar list of achievements, players Tony Pollard and T.J. Carter were each named to the *USA Today* Freshman All-America Team during their respective freshman seasons in 2016 and 2017; and

WHEREAS, performing in the classroom as well as on the gridiron, the Memphis Tigers football team has posted the highest team grade point average in program history in back-to-back semesters; and

WHEREAS, since winning the Miami Beach Bowl in 2014, the University of Memphis Tigers have seen seventy-two former players earn their undergraduates degrees, including CoSIDA All-American Daniel Montiel, National Football League (NFL) first-round draft pick Paxton Lynch, and 2018 Super Bowl Champion Jake Elliott, who was also a CoSIDA All-American, a CoSIDA Academic All-American, and the AAC Football Scholar-Athlete of the Year twice; and

WHEREAS, since 2014, Memphis Tigers who have received their undergraduate degrees and gone on to play in the NFL include Alan Cross, Mose Frazier, Bobby McCain, Tevin Jones, Paxton Lynch, and Jake Elliott; in the past five seasons, ten different Tigers have been invited to the NFL Combine, with five of those players currently on NFL teams and three others still going through the process to land an NFL roster spot; and

WHEREAS, after yet another season that inspired the students and faculty of the University of Memphis, the City of Memphis, and the State of Tennessee, it is wholly fitting that this General Assembly recognize the Memphis Tigers football team on its success; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commend and congratulate the players, coaches, and trainers of the University of Memphis Tigers football team, applauding their many accomplishments over the last five seasons and extending our best wishes to them for success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.